

# Fishing Journal

Information For The Serious Angler

by John Martinis

March 2017

## **Fishing Dates**

**These Seasons are  
based on quotas  
and they  
May Change**

**Area 6  
Dec 1-April 10  
Daily limit one  
Chinook, hatchery only**

**Area 7  
Closed, but may open  
again**

**Area 8-1  
Nov 1-April 30  
Daily limit one  
Chinook, hatchery only**

**Area 8-2  
Nov 1-April 30  
Daily limit one  
Chinook, hatchery only**

**Area 9  
Open until April 15  
Chinook, daily limit  
one, hatchery only**

**Area 10  
Closed for Chinook  
until further notice**

**Shop Online at  
John's Sporting Goods  
[shop.johnssportinggoods.com](http://shop.johnssportinggoods.com)**

## **Seminar 2017**

**By John Martinis  
Chinook Seminar  
Wednesday March 15th  
at Bayside Marine @7PM  
1111 Craftsman Way, Everett**  
You are invited, free to the public

My popular Chinook seminar will be held on March 15. I will be presenting winning strategies guaranteed to put more Chinook in your boat. I will talk about correct methods to rig flashers and spoons as well as fishing with herring. In addition, we will go over some fishing charts that should help getting to the correct fishing spot on the right tide. Take the guesswork out of Chinook fishing and be at the seminar at Bayside Marine on March 15 at 7 PM.

The Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club will have a raffle at the end of the seminar. There will be some great prizes including rods, reels, and salmon tackle.

## **Everett Blackmouth Derby March 18**

**Tickets Available at  
John's Sporting Goods  
Ticket Price: \$100/Includes 4  
Anglers  
1st Prize \$3,000**

## **Five Days of Fishing the Puget Sound and Straits of Juan de Fuca**

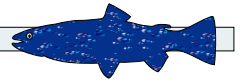
### **Angling for Fish without Fins**

During the week of February 20th through the 25th, I spent five days on the water searching for and hopefully catching Chinook with a missing adipose fin (hatchery fish). As you may expect, when you spend five solid days fishing from daylight to dark a lot of things can go sideways. On some days fishing went according to the game plan and fish cooperated. Then there were other days which presented a challenge to put fish on the deck. On a few of those days I was asking myself, "what the ..... am I doing out here?" Then there were other days, the fish were hitting and staying on the hook which made for some fun times. I hope some of you can relate to my experiences and maybe you can gain some tips while I describe my recent trips. So, let's get started with Monday February 20th.

The tides on the morning were low at 6:26 AM and high at 11:28 AM. The game plan was to go straight to Useless Bay where I took some decent Chinook in November. My expectations were that fish would still be there even though it had been some time since Marine Area 9 was last opened.

Les Jacober and I got to Useless Bay at

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7:30 AM and were planning to fish through high tide at 11:28 AM. We could be out of there sooner if the salmon were biting and we were fortunate enough to get our two hatchery Chinook limit. Our tackle selection was a Gibbs Red Racer Flasher paired with Goldstar Kingfisher 3.0 Cookies n Cream spoon tied 42 inches behind the flasher. I had the spoon rigged with a 3/0 Mustad stainless steel hook. Les was fishing with a white glow flasher paired with a Goldstar Coho Killer Herring Aide spoon. His spoon was also rigged 42 inches from the flasher with a 3/0 Gamakatsu Big River hook.

On the first pass through the bar extending south from Useless Bay we got one hookup which we quickly lost. Les and I made five more runs through the bar and lost a Chinook on every pass. Some of these fish had some “shoulders” and were definite keepers.

There was a fellow in a red aluminum boat next to us who appeared to have a rather nice Chinook on. I said to Les, “see that dude in the red boat, he is showing you how to do it”. Les had no response or at least anything I could print.

There was a bunch of Chinook caught that morning in Useless Bay. Our rods were not silent but our trusty nets were still flying a half mast.

At the tide change, my line popped off the release and we were “off to the games”. This Chinook was fighting deep and going away from us. This was the fish we were looking for. HOORAY! The battle was on. Our net

was still standing at attention just waiting for some action, now it was time to even the score. I pumped this fish up to the surface and got a good look at it close to the boat. It was a hatchery Chinook (not a native) and it was closer to 18 pounds than 15 pounds. I gently eased the fish closer to the boat and the net. This fish was running on fumes and had no gas left in the tank. As I led the fish to a foot from the net the hook suddenly broke loose. I went into total meltdown. Grown men should not act like that. We waited all morning for this chance after losing several smaller ones.

After I settled down, it dawned on me that this day could end just like it started – “Fishless on the water”. By this time, it was high Noon and only three boats were in Useless Bay. Our prospects appeared grim.

Les and I fished another hour while trying to figure out what would be our next move. Would it be the Tin Shed Drift on Possession Bar or Pilot Point? Or go to work (really?) The third choice was a distant third. I was on a mission to put two Chinook in the boat. After all, my pride was at stake. On that morning fishing was a bit humbling...but that’s OK since we all need it occasionally.

An hour and a half after tide change we put a Chinook in the boat weighing about 8 to 9 pounds. At last the dry spell had been broken. We lost the next Chinook and boated another one at 2PM. We eventually got our limit of Chinook by just fishing hard and not losing hope along the way.

Tuesday February 21, I left the Bayside

dock at 8 AM. There was no need to get to Useless Bay early since high tide was at 12:27 PM. I was fishing solo this day. I was on another mission to catch a Chinook just like the one I lost the day before. There were only three boats at Useless Bay on this day. To me this makes the odds of catching a fish better because there is less competing fishing tackle for the same pool of fish – do the math.

The first hour of fishing went by with my rod not even budging. I said to myself, “Here we go again, a day with no action from the fish.” I just had to be patient. I was fishing with a Gibbs flasher and a Goldstar Kingfisher spoon 3.5 #964 spoon (Green/Spatter Red stripe). At the end of the first hour I switched to a Gibbs flasher and Goldstar 3.0 Kingfisher Cookies N Cream spoon.

Hour Two went by - no undersized Chinook, no just barely legal Chinook and for that matter a fat zero. To say I was disenchanted was an understatement. The fish diary for this day had “skunked” written all over it. The other two boats that were there also had nothing. Three boats five rods out and not a pop! This was really testing my fishing abilities. I dropped to 135 to 150 feet deep and fished close to the bottom. I knew if I stuck to fishing the known strike zone my chances for catching a Chinook were better. I wasn’t going to mess up my game plan and troll deep into the north end of Useless Bay looking for a fish to bite. I was staying on the most extreme end of the bar at Useless Bay. I was fishing an area no larger than a football field. This was easy since there were only three boats fishing in

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the area.

I was out on the end of the bar in 160 feet of water. I made a turn to the east with the idea of edging back up on to the bar. I wanted to walk my gear up that ledge. I approached 150 feet of water. I adjusted my downrigger to compensate for the depth change. Now I was in 140 feet of water. I knew I was in the perfect strike zone. As I made my way to 135 feet of water my line popped off the release. This Chinook was fighting deep all the way. I knew it was a decent sized fish on the other end of the line. My thoughts were, "Is it a hatchery Chinook? Will this fish stay hooked?" Now it was redemption time for the fish that I lost yesterday at the boat. This fish had no desire to give up and handing me a victory. Every time the fish turned and gave the line some slack, I just about lost it, thinking the fish came unbuttoned. I worked the fish close to the boat. I could see it was a fish without a fin. This Chinook was not finished. Now it was getting close to net time. I had my Cummings six-foot fiber glassed handled net in one hand and the fishing rod in the other hand. I could only lift the rod hoping that the fish would make a tactical error and glide over the net. This is where everything went right (not South). I lifted the rod and made the fish head straight for the boat. I put the net under the fish and tilted the net slightly so the fish had to swim into the net. This game plan was executed to perfection (maybe some luck involved, just perhaps) and this Chinook was in the books. I checked for the adipose three more times just in case my mind was playing games with me and yes this was a fish

without a fin. It's a little rough doing a "high-five by yourself". This one was an easy 16 pounds and he was mine to keep. I went to work and shared my story of the day with my store customers. I gave them the exact location of the catch; the depth I was fishing and the tackle I was using. Others benefited from my experience. Very gratifying!

On Wednesday February 22, I was again fishing with my old buddy Les Jacober. Even as we were leaving Bayside Marine at 7:30 AM, we had not decided on where to fish that day. The early morning low tide had now advanced to 8:51 AM. As we passed Mukilteo we decided that fishing the Tin Shed Drift would give us the best chances for catching one or two legal Chinook. The weather was good and the tide was absolutely perfect for fishing the Tin Shed Drift. The decision was right and our chances were good for this particular morning.

We started fishing on the extreme north end of the Tin Shed Drift in 90 feet of water. I would rather had been out in 120 feet but this was a good starting point. Not long after we got our lines in the water we had a legal Chinook to the boat. We released this fish since it was early and we were looking for a fish with broader shoulders. We finally got into a groove out into 125 feet of water and started marking some bait. Les was fishing with a glow/white flasher paired with a Herring Aide Coho Killer spoon 42 inches from the flasher. I was fishing with a Gibbs Red Racer Flasher with a Goldstar Cookies N Cream 3.0 Kingfisherspoon.

As we approached the south end of the Tin Shed Drift in about 150 feet of water, it was time to turn and troll back to where we had started. We had hooked and released several undersized Chinook on the troll to the south end of the bar. After the turn, we concentrated on fishing deeper. I tried to keep the boat in 135 feet of water. It became obvious this was only going to be a Chinook shaker bite (sub-legal). This was not how we wanted to spend the day.

Our destination later in the day was Port Townsend so that we could fish in the Straits the next day. From the Tin Shed drift we went to Useless Bay so we could fish the incoming tide until 1:23 PM (high tide).

I don't want to say that the fishing was good that Wednesday at Useless Bay, but there were a few Chinook being caught. My friend Rich Tmulac had two other anglers with him and they caught three nice size Chinook before noon. There were just enough Chinook being caught to keep me there through the high tide.

Now for the dark side of the moon...By noon I lost a 15-pound downrigger ball which got bottom snagged. Next, I lost a flasher and spoon that also got snagged on the bottom. That is a testament to how close we fish on the bottom. An hour later Les reeled in to check his gear and the leader was broken off at the flasher and the spoon was gone....and the beat goes on. This was a .....poor morning of fishing. Finally, we had enough and headed west. We had just enough time left before sunset to fish Partridge Bank.

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While on our way to Partridge Bank we were met at Bush Point by a Nuclear Sub escort boat. You don't want to mess with those guys! I knew that the distance between us and the Sub had to be 3000 feet. I was not new to this drill but I had nowhere to go because I was 100 yards from the shoreline. The crew on the escort boat was very polite and said that he would escort us around the nuclear sub and we were to be at his side at all times. This worked out OK.

We arrived at the southeast corner of Partridge Bank in the early afternoon. The tides were backwards from what I like to fish at the bank. The low tide had just happened and now it was the first half of the outgoing tide. There was something in the air that just didn't feel right. We caught a couple just legal Chinook which we released as well as some undersized fish. Les and I fished until the day turned into dusk. There was no fish in the box and no game plan that had a potential.

We made our way back to Port Townsend Marina and stayed at the Harbor Side Inn for \$79 a night. Also, we had a \$10 off coupon that we got online from the Harbor Inn Web Site. The Inn has free breakfast at 6:00 AM. Les and I met for breakfast and discussed the plan for the day. My good friend and Fishing Guide Derek Floyd (Anglers Choice Fishing Charter) called me and said he had a good trip on Coyote bank on the previous day. That turned into the plan for the day.

Day four, Thursday February 23. We left the Harbor at 7:00 AM. I checked the wind for Smith Island which was a steady 15 MPH. I checked the wind

for Hein Bank which was a steady 9 MPH.

We were approaching the east entrance of the Straits of Juan de Fuca. The west wind was increasing. The wind chop was narrow. This was not a fun ride. By the time we approached Partridge Bank the tide rips and wind chop were "not good". I had to stop and analyze the situation. I went outside the cabin of my boat to feel the wind. Gosh, it just didn't feel as bad as it looked. In the meantime, I noticed that the bilge pump light was on steadily (please no more problems). The bilge pump wasn't stuck in the "on position", it was pumping water that had come in the boat on the ride out. Les and I discussed the situation and we decided that we would go to Coyote Bank. We got to Eastern Bank and the Straits appeared to be calming down. Four miles later we were going over Hein Bank and the water was almost smooth. The decision to go for it turned out to be a "thumbs up". We arrived at Coyote Bank and there was a slight breeze from the North at 5 MPH.

There were no other salmon anglers on the US side of the border and only two boats on the Canadian side.

We started fishing on the very north end of Coyote Bank and headed to the south in 125 feet of water. Shortly we landed a 12-pound Chinook. We were off to a good start. The salmon fishing was looking up. Not too much time had passed and we had another Chinook on that could have been the same size as the one we had in the box. That fish came unhooked, O

golly.... Just as well because I wanted to spend the day fishing near the US/Canadian Border.

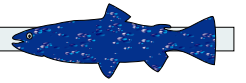
For the next hour we were constantly catching 10 inch Ling Cod. We had to check our lines every 10 minutes just to make sure we were not towing small ling cod on the end of the line. A nice surprise came when I hooked a 25-pound Halibut that had to be released. Then it was back to catching everything that had a set of fins. The list included: Ling Cod, Halibut, Kelp Greenling and Copper Rock Fish. There was a massive bottom fish bite going on. It was almost impossible to fish for salmon.

We finally decided to fish 20 to 25 feet off the bottom. This helped quite a bit. But did not eliminate the rockfish - Ling Cod problem.

Derek Floyd called me around 10 AM to check in. I said we landed one respectable Chinook and told him of the bottom fish problem. I also told Derek that we were fishing from the north to south down Coyote Bank. "No, no, that's all wrong," exclaimed Derek. Derek instructed me to fish from the east to the west. Coyote Bank is so narrow on the US side of the line, the east/west troll is very short. We gave the east/west troll a try and that minor adjustment made a huge difference in hooking up a 10 to 12-pound Chinook. The only other adjustment we made was fishing as deep as 160 feet. There was not much bait in 135 feet of water, so I decided to look deeper. There it was! After just two adjustments it was "game on"!



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At Coyote Bank Les was using a Goldstar 3.5 Kingfisher spoon that was given out at the 2016 Salmon for Soldiers event. This spoon is white with a green stripe and it has a gold star on it. He paired it with a white/glow flasher. I was using the gear I was sticking with that week: Gibbs Red Racer Flasher with a Goldstar Cookies N Cream 3.0 kingfisher spoon. Both rigs produced about the same results. By the way, I did lose a flasher and spoon rig at Coyote Bank that got snagged to the bottom. (where have I heard this story before)

After four days of hard core salmon fishing, I was ready for a good night sleep and a day of rest. Late in the day on Thursday Tom Nelson called me and asked me to fish with him and Bob Maschmedt. These two guys are long time good friends so I couldn't pass up the opportunity to be on Tom's boat the next morning.

Day five of "Fish without Fins". On Friday Tom and I left the Everett Harbor at 7AM in his 28 foot Weldcraft, same boat as mine only four feet longer. We motored over to Columbia Beach and picked up Bob at his beach front home on Whidbey Island. Bob rows out to Tom's boat in his 12-foot aluminum boat that is a little leaky but it fits the purpose. All three of us do the greetings and we prepare for two hours of Chinook fishing before going to work and to work on other projects.

As we approach Possession Bar the wind is ratcheting up in the high teens. Puget Sound was rough this Friday morning but this is water that the three of us fish in all the time. Tom throttles the boat down as wind increases on top of Possession Bar. We are in 40 feet of water, the tide is going out and the wind is from the southeast and increasing.

As we enter Useless Bay the tide rips amplify the wind speed.

We finally arrive at the very south end of the bar that extends out from Useless Bay. Tom and I decide that the best way to fish this is from the south to the north and to only troll in one direction. On one rod, we had a tri-color flasher Silver/Chartreuse/Green Herring Scale paired with the Goldstar Herring Aide Coho Killer spoon. On the other rod is a Gibbs Red Racer flasher paired with a Goldstar Cookies N Cream 3.0 Kingfisher spoon. Tom and I thought this would be a one strike day for a mid-teens hatchery Chinook.

Shortly after the first pass one of the rods goes off and Bob Maschmedt is on the rod. This fish is not a native and comes in the boat. This was a respectable 9 to 10-pound Chinook. Good way to start the morning. Our primary goal was to get Bob a Chinook and so, mission accomplished. Now we can relax. Whoa not so fast! The tide rip at the end of the bar was rattling our teeth. One more pass nets us a fish that was the same size as the first one. Next pass, we have a good size Chinook on. We get that Chinook to the boat but it is a "Fish with a Fin" and this one had to be released.

We make one more pass from the south to the north. As we approach 140 feet of water one of the rods goes off with the fourth fish of the day on the hook. I told Tom to slow down because it felt like the "Big One". As this fish got closer and closer to the boat the fish got smaller and smaller. Awkwardly for me the fish was a sub-legal Chinook and small at that. Rookie mistake on my part. You would never had known I just finished a week of fishing.

**Featured Fishing Tackle**  
**Goldstar Kingfisher 3.0 spoon**  
**Cookies n Cream**  
**Goldstar Coho Killer Herring Aide**  
**Mustad 3/0 Stainless 3/0 Hooks**  
**Gamakatsu Big River**  
**Siwash 3/0 Hooks**  
**Gibbs Red Racer Flasher**  
**White/Glow Flasher**

**Terminal Tackle that was used but not mentioned**  
**Pline 30lb Fluorocarbon Leader**  
**Sampo X4KB Cork Screw Swivel**

## 2017 Ways to Make a Difference

**Jennings Park**  
**Kids Fishing Derby**  
**May 2017**  
**Everett Lions Club**  
**Derby for the Blind**

This is the time of year to contribute to two great events: The Jennings Park Kids Fishing Derby and the Everett Lions Club Derby for the Blind.

I will match any donation dollar for dollar that you contribute to either event.

I have been involved in the Blind Derby for many years. The Blind people who are involved in this derby will pull at your heart strings. They are so full of enthusiasm and excitement. Can you only imagine what it is like to be on the water salmon fishing and being blind? Please help. 100% of this money will be given out as cash prizes.

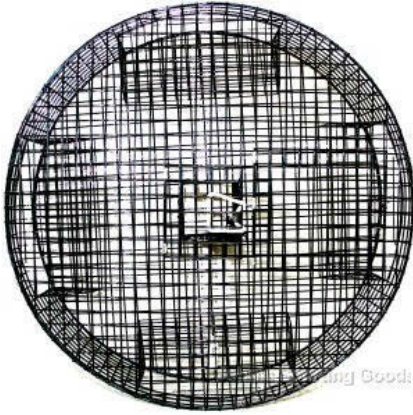
**Including my matching money (2015), we raised \$3000 for the Blind Derby and \$1,500 for the Jennings Park Kids Fishing Derby. Thank you for your donations!**

Contact John Martinis (425-259-3056) to

# Special Purchase

Tackle For The Serious Angler

## Shrimp Pot Sale March 2017



1/4" Rope



**SMI 19001-600ft Ledged Rope-Buoy**  
**Sale Price \$109**  
**John's #1 Selling Shrimp Pot**  
Reg. Price \$127



CT-150 Now Available  
**Ladner Style Shrimp Pot**  
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**Daiwa Tanacom 750**  
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Filled Free w/65lb-80lb Braided Line



**1/4" Ledged Rope Sale Price \$39.95**  
**600ft Ledged Rope**  
Reg. Price \$48

No Coupons or Discount Gift Certificates can be Used on these On-Sale Items

**John's Sporting Goods**

**John's Sporting Goods**  
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Items that are excluded: Downriggers, Ace Line Hauler Products, Traxtech Products, Rods and Reels, Electronics, CTO3R Crab Pot, SMI Crab Pots & Shrimp Pots, Braided Line, items that are discounted, on sale, repairs, parts and closeout items. Cannot be used in combination with discounted gift certificates.

**10% Discount**

**Rods and Reels**

Excludes G-Loomis, St Croix, Daiwa Electric Reels

Not valid for online purchases or mail order

Valid only with coupon at the time of sale

**Expires March 30, 2017**

**You Must have this coupon in your hand at the time of purchase. No exceptions made.**

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**Scotty Downrigger**  
**Maintenance**  
**300ft Cable**  
**or**  
**300ft Spectra Braid**  
**\$59.95**

Included in the price is new brake pads, your choice of 300' of 150lb. Cable or 300' 200lb. of braided spectra downrigger line, cleaning and lubricating the downrigger.

Coupons and discounted gift certificates cannot be used for this service

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**Thursday: Big Fish Day**

**Friday: Deal of the Day**

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**Exclusive at**  
**John's Sporting Goods**

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**Guide Series**

**Installed with**  
**300ft 200lb Braided Spectra**  
**#1148 Ball hook**  
**#371 Scotty Snubber**  
**\$525**

**Standard Scotty 1106**  
**\$473**

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**Store Hours: 9:00AM - 5:30PM Monday - Saturday**  
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**John's Sporting Goods**  
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**The Serious Angler**